

SPIDER-MAN
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
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AUTHORITY

ON
WINGS
OF
DEATH!



IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE!
AUNT MAY
AT THE MERCY OF
THE BLOODTHIRSTY
BEETLE!

IN THE *SAME* EPIC SAGA--A SUPER-SPECIAL *BONUS*--



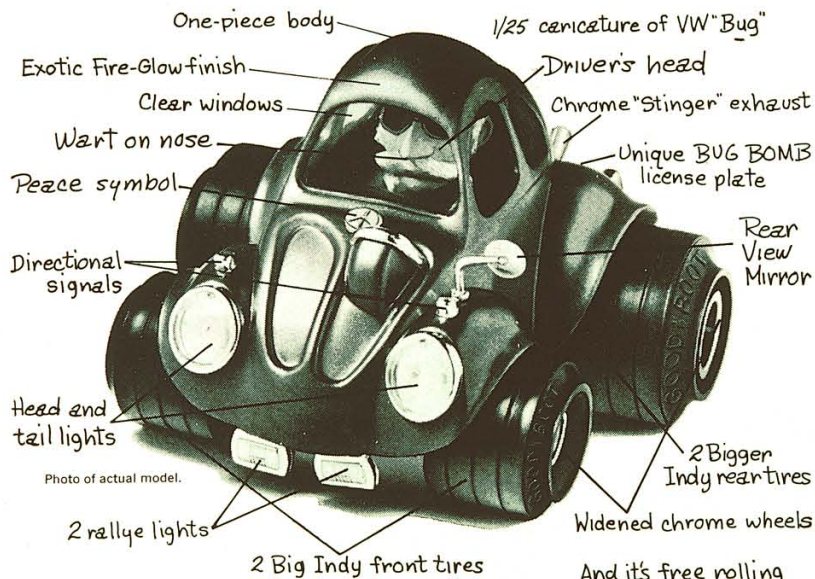
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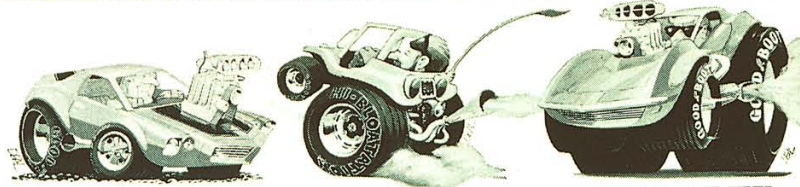
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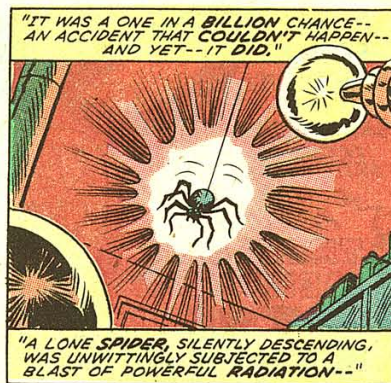
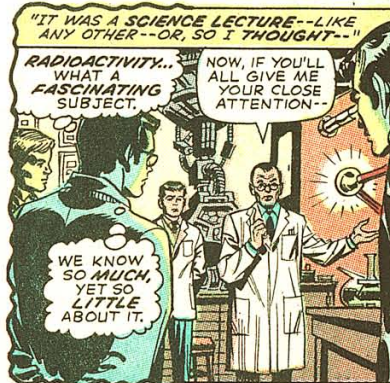


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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

"AND SO, DUE TO THAT STRANGE, AMAZING ACCIDENT OF FATE-- SPIDER-MAN WAS BORN!"

"AT FIRST, IT WAS A REAL KICK TESTING MY POWER ALL OVER TOWN..."

WOW! IF THE GANG COULD SEE PUNY PARKER NOW!

"AS I GAINED MORE AND MORE CONFIDENCE, THERE SEEMED NOTHING I COULDN'T DO--"

HEIGHTS DON'T BOTHER ME.

I COULD SWING LIKE THIS ALL DAY.

"FINALLY, I WAS SIGNED FOR A TV VARIETY SHOW. BUT, AS I SWING INTO THE STUDIO--"

STOP HIM, I DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS KEEP HIM FROM REACHING THE ELEVATOR.

SORRY, PAL. YOU'RE PAID FOR IT--I'M NOT.

BESIDES, I'VE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO.

"NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS A SENSATION."

WHO COULDN'T BE A SMASH WITH POWER LIKE MINE?

"BUT, MINUTES LATER, THE BUBBLE WAS TO BURST--"



EVEN NOW--AFTER ALL THESE YEARS--I STILL GET THE SHAKES WHEN I THINK OF IT.

RETURNING HOME FROM THE STUDIO, I FOUND A COP OUTSIDE...



IT'S YOUR UNCLE, SON-- HE'S DEAD.

A BURGLAR BROKE INTO THE HOUSE-- SHOT HIM WHEN HE WAS DISCOVERED. BUT DON'T WORRY-- HE'S HOLED UP IN A WAREHOUSE. WE'LL TAKE HIM.

UNCLE BEN! OH NO-- NO!



"UNCLE BEN AND AUNT MAY WERE ALL THE FAMILY I HAD. THEY HAD BROUGHT ME UP--CARED FOR ME--"

COME BACK, WAIT! THERE'S NOTHING--

I'LL GET HIM--I SWEAR IT! I'LL GET HIM!



I--I WISH HE HAD SUPER-HUMAN POWERS--LIKE I DO--SO I COULD PUNISH HIM MORE.

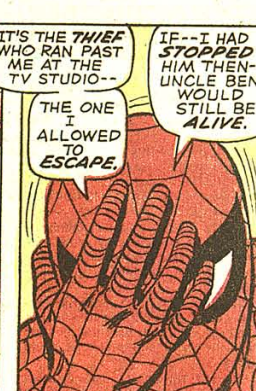
BECAUSE OF HIM-- MY UNCLE BEN IS DEAD.



BUT, I GUESS THE COPS WILL--

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE.

THAT FACE! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE--



IT'S THE THIEF WHO RAN PAST ME AT THE TV STUDIO--

THE ONE I ALLOWED TO ESCAPE.

IF--I HAD STOPPED HIM THEN-- UNCLE BEN WOULDN'T STILL BE ALIVE.



SPIDER-MAN CAN REACH THE WAREHOUSE BEFORE THE COPS--



OVER THERE-- HIDING IN THE SHADOWS-- IT MUST BE HIM.



WHAT THE--?!!

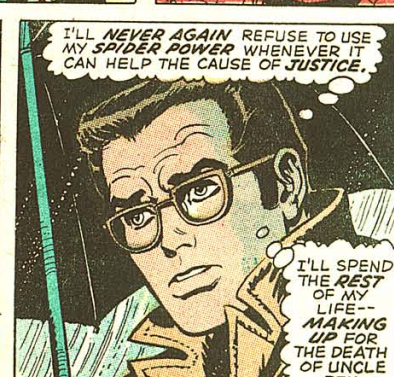


"ALL DURING THE BURIAL, AS I STOOD WITH MY GRIEVING AUNT MAY, ONE BURNING THOUGHT KEPT HAUNTING ME-- HOUNDING ME--"

BECAUSE I DIDN'T LIFT A FINGER TO HELP CATCH A CRIMINAL--

I'LL ALWAYS FEEL PARTLY RESPONSIBLE-- FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO UNCLE BEN.

"SO, IT WAS THEN AND THERE THAT I MADE THE VOW THAT WOULD LATER TORTURE ME IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED--"



I'LL NEVER AGAIN REFUSE TO USE MY SPIDER POWER WHENEVER IT CAN HELP THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE.

I'LL SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE-- MAKING UP FOR THE DEATH OF UNCLE BEN.



SOME NUT IN A COSTUME!

WELL, WHOEVER YOU ARE-- THIS'LL STOP YA!

HEY-- HOW CAN YA-- MOVE SO FAST?



MY SECOND SHOT'LL GET-- WHA--?!!

YOU'VE HAD IT, RAT--



YOU'LL NEVER SHOOT ANYONE-- NOT EVER AGAIN.



"WITH HER HUSBAND GONE, AUNT MAY LAVISHED ALL HER WARM-HEARTED AFFECTION ON ME. I WAS THE ONLY FAMILY SHE HAD LEFT."

SOMETIMES SHE TREATS ME LIKE A CHILD.

I WONDER WHAT SHE'D DO--

--IF I TOLD HER THAT I'M REALLY SPIDER-MAN?



"BUT, NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, I REALIZED I COULD NEVER DIVULGE MY SECRET TO HER--"

YOUR AUNT HAS A VERY WEAK HEART.

ANY SUDDEN SHOCK-- COULD KILL HER.



AND SO I'VE KEPT MY SECRET FROM HER-- ALL THESE YEARS.

BUT HOW MUCH LONGER CAN I DO IT?

EVERYONE SLIPS UP-- SOONER OR LATER.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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"I'VE BEEN LUCKY SO FAR, BUT CAN I CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST MURDEROUS MENACES OF ALL--AND STILL KEEP MY SECRET IDENTITY FROM AUNT MAY--AND FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD? ALL IT'LL TAKE IS ONE DEFEAT--ONE CHANCE FOR SOME ENEMY TO UNMASK ME--AND IT'LL BE OVER--FOREVER."



NOTE: IF YOU CAN NAME ALL OF THESE SNARLIN' SPIDEY-FOES, AND ADD AT LEAST FIVE MORE TO THE LIST, CONSIDER YOURSELF A TRUE S.S. (SPIDOPHILE SUPREME).--STAN.



I'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS--THINKING FOR HOURS--AND I'M MORE UNDECIDED THAN EVER

THERE'S THE BUGLE BUILDING, DID MY SUBCONSCIOUS MAKE ME WALK HERE--OR IS IT JUST COINCIDENCE?

DAILY BUGLE

NUTS, EITHER WAY--WHO CARES?



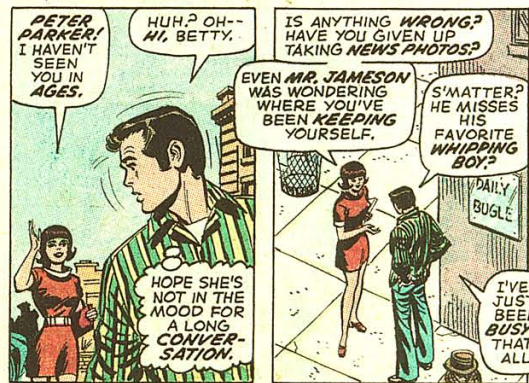
I'VE MORE ON MY MIND THAN SELLING A FEW CRUMMY PHOTOS TO THAT TIGHTWAD JAMESON.

AND THERE'S NOTHING IN THAT RAG OF HIS THAT COULD INTEREST ME NOW.

CRIME IN THE CITY

BEETLE MAN! LARGE!

DON'T BE TOO SURE OF THAT, PETE. FATE MAY HAVE A LITTLE SURPRISE IN STORE FOR YOU.



PETER PARKER! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES.

HUH? OH--HI, BETTY.

IS ANYTHING WRONG? HAVE YOU GIVEN UP TAKING NEWS PHOTOS?

EVEN MR. JAMESON WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF.

S'MATTER? HE MISSES HIS FAVORITE WHIPPING BOY?

HOPE SHE'S NOT IN THE MOOD FOR A LONG CONVERSATION.

I'VE--JUST BEEN BUSY--THAT'S ALL.



IF HE GETS TOO LONELY WITHOUT ME, HE CAN ALWAYS GO TO THE CEMETERY AND CHUCKLE OVER THE TOMBSTONES.

SEE YOU AROUND, LADY.

NOW WHY DID I HAVE TO SNAP AT HER LIKE THAT?



"BETTY BRANT WAS THE FIRST GIRL I EVER LOVED--OR THOUGHT I DID. IT WAS ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO THAT WE BROKE UP--AGAIN, BECAUSE OF SPIDER-MAN."

BECAUSE OF MY SECRET--IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.

FOR BOTH OF US.



"BUT, I MUSTN'T THINK OF BETTY--CAUSE SHE REMINDS ME OF GWEN--AND THAT'S TOO MUCH TO BEAR."

"AND YET, EVERYTHING I THINK OF--REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING ELSE--"

"I REMEMBER HOW I TRIED TO FORGET BETTY--BY GOING INTO ACTION--JUST AS I'VE DONE LATELY--BECAUSE OF GWEN..."



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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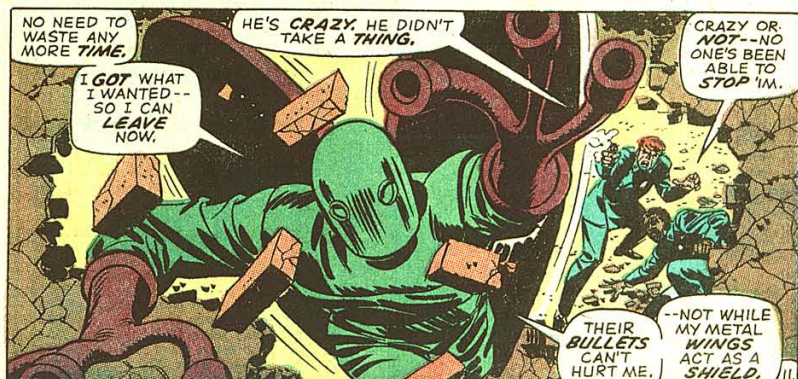
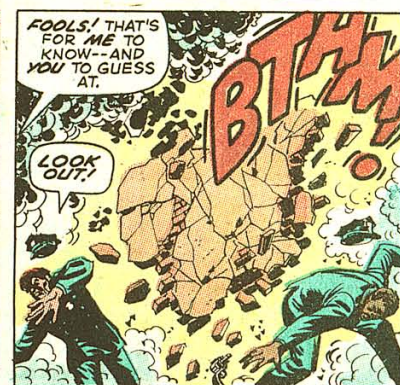
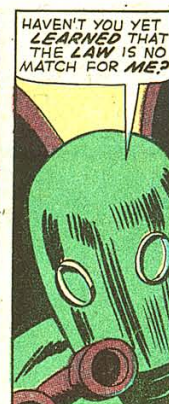
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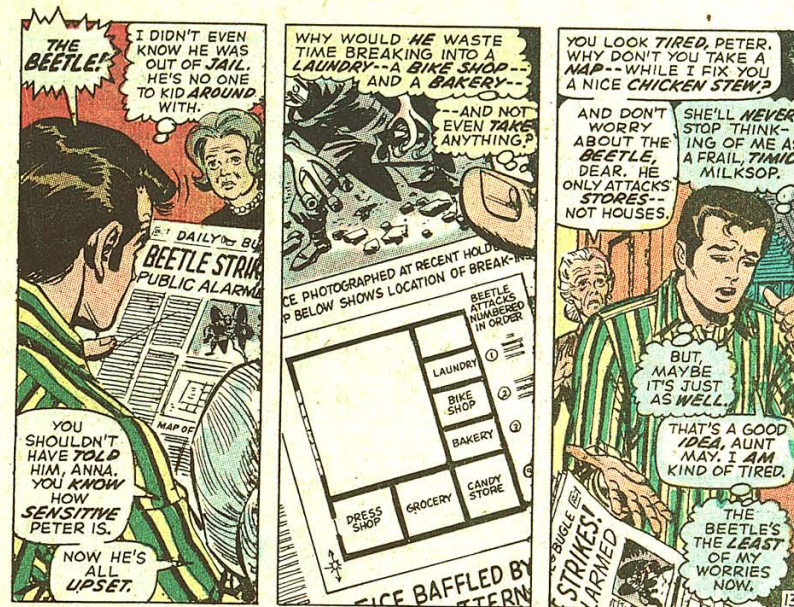
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HONESTLY, MAY, HOW CAN YOU BABY HIM LIKE THAT?

PETER IS A BIG, STRAPPING MAN, DEAR --NOT AN INFANT.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, ANNA. HE'S ALL I HAVE.

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?



DON'T YOU SEE? THE POOR BOY SPENDS ALL HIS TIME STUDYING--WITH NO ONE TO LOOK AFTER HIM.

WE SHOULD BE LOOKING AFTER YOU.

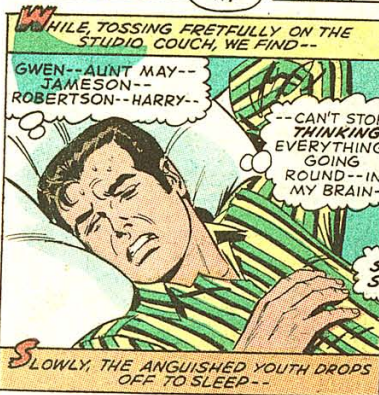
OH DEAR! I'M ALL OUT OF MILK.



I'LL BE RIGHT, BACK. ANNA, MILK IS SO GOOD FOR GROWING BOYS.

GROWING BOY? BUT, PETER IS--OH, WHAT'S THE USE?

BE CAREFUL, MAY, REMEMBER, THAT AWFUL BEETLE HASN'T BEEN CAUGHT YET.



WHILE, TOSSING FRETFULLY ON THE STUDIO, COUCH, WE FIND--

GWEN--AUNT MAY-- JAMESON--ROBERTSON--HARRY--

--CAN'T STOP THINKING! EVERYTHING GOING ROUND--IN MY BRAIN--

SPIDER-MAN! SPIDER-MAN!

SLOWLY, THE ANGUISHED YOUTH DROPS OFF TO SLEEP--



--ONLY TO BE PLAGUED BY A NIGHT-MARISH DREAM--

HE'S ALWAYS THERE... CAN'T EVER ESCAPE HIM...



HE WON'T BE THERE MUCH LONGER.

THE BEETLE!



YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR SPIDER-MAN.

UNNNH!

THWIP!



MY WEBBING--TURNING INTO CHAINS!

I--I'M TRAPPED!



IT'S YOU WHO ARE NO MATCH FOR THE BEETLE.

HIS BEETLE FEELERS--GETTING CLOSER--CLOSER--



YOU NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE THE ONE TO FINISH YOU.

I--THE BEETLE.



THE BEETLE!

THE BEETLE!



PETER--WAKE UP.

THE BEETLE--THE BEETLE!

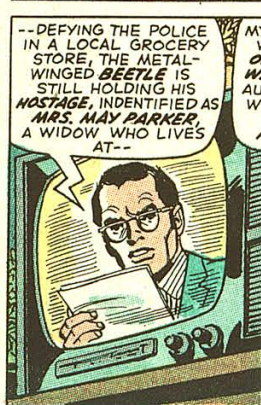


YES--THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU--

YOUR AUNT MAY--WAS CAPTURED BY THE BEETLE!

WHAT?

LISTEN--IT'S ON THE TV NEWS RIGHT NOW--



--DEFYING THE POLICE IN A LOCAL GROCERY STORE, THE METAL-WINGED BEETLE IS STILL HOLDING HIS HOSTAGE, UNIDENTIFIED AS MRS. MAY PARKER, A WIDOW WHO LIVES AT--

MY DREAM WAS AN OMEN--A WARNING, AUNT MAY--WITH HER WEAK HEART--



PETER... WAIT. COME BACK. WHAT ON EARTH CAN YOU DO?

I CAN BE THERE! AND I WILL.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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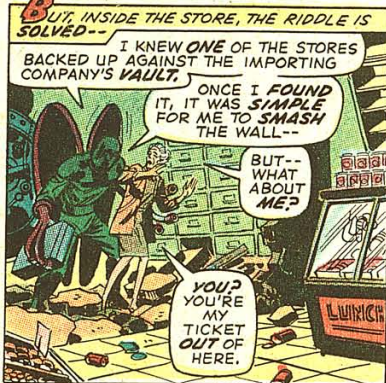
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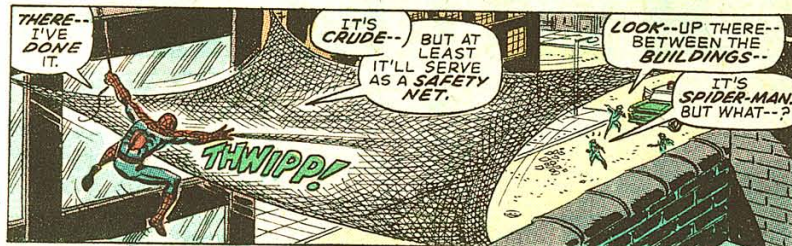
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ANIMALS—INSECTS: Frog, Tiger, Penguin, Rabbit, Beetle, Bumblebee, Butterfly. Colored embroidery—self-sticking—removable—reusable. Send \$2 to WOODWARD, 307 North Fulton Ave., Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10552. Money refunded in 10 days if dissatisfied.

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CEREBRAL COMMENTS AND COGENT CRITIQUES, CAPRICIOUSLY CREATED WITH CARE AND CANDOR!

ITEM! It's common knowledge by now that our leader, SMILIN' STAN, entered the comic-book field at the age of seventeen, and became an editor shortly thereafter. (Of course, that was long ago...during the first Golden Age of Comics.) Today, the bearded one, still going strong, seems to be our answer to Methusalem! Anyway, what we're leading up to is — young-at-heart Marvel has always been youth-oriented, and never more so than today. Just look at the evidence, Dubious One, RASCALLY ROY THOMAS, Stan's award-winning associate editor and rollickin' writer-in-residence, after years of Bullpen bondage, is still comfortably under the age of thirty! AMIABLE ALLYN BRODSKY, our erudite editorial aide-de-camp, has yet to reach the ripe old age of twenty-six! The same goes for MARVELOUS MIMI GOLD, JOLLY JIMMY PETTY, and HECTIC HOLLY RESNICOFF — sensational staffers all! And now, a handful of new names for you to take hold of, toy with, and treasure forever. First, meet MERRY GERRY CONWAY, pushin' towards twenty, who's already got a couple of science-fiction paperback sales under his belt and who cut his artistic eyeteeth at Marvel scripting mystery yarns and KAZAR's capers. Gerry will be writing DAREDEVIL, and IRON MAN as well, from here on in — and, despite what the competition may say, it isn't true that he still pays half-fare on the subway! And about LIVELY LANNIE WEIN, BASHFUL BARRY SMITH, RIGHTOUS RICHIE BUCKLER, and MADCAP MIKE FRIEDRICH — all well under twenty-five, and all appearing in the pandemonium pages of mighty Marvel with ever-increasing frequency! Of course, it's not just because we're hooked on youngsters — sly ol' Stan figures that if ever we get bored with turning out comic-mags, we can always convert to running a nursery!

ITEM! Lest you think that grey hairs turn us off, it's only fair to mention that many of Marveldom's all-time greats — who are turning out the finest, most relevant strips of all today — are well on the other side of thirty-five! Want proof? Well, ever hear of these guys — a fellow named LEE! A ROMITA ring-a-ding! A couple of BUSCEMA brothers! A gent called COLAN! And a few other assorted artistic titans known as SINNOTT, EVERETT, MOONEY, MORTELLARO, HECK, KANE, AYERS, TUSKA, WOOD, SHORES, and SEVERIN! (By that last we mean JOHN S. of course; nobody in the bluish Bullpen would ever suggest that MIRTHFUL MARIE is anything but ageless!) And while we're at it, let's not forget our "twilight zone" whiz-kinds who've kinda outgrown their beanie caps, though they're still young enough for stickball. In other words, closing in on thirty (from one side or the other), we've got HAPPY HERBIE TRIMPE, STURDY STU SCHWARTZBERG, TERRIFIC TOMMY PALMER, JUMBO JOHNNY

VERPOORTEN, DAPPER DANNY ADKINS, LAUGHIN' LARRY LIEBER, and NEFAIOUS NEAL ADAMS! Yessir, when it comes to talent, you can throw the calendar out the window — at least, so it seems to the ageless wonders at 625 Madison!

ITEM! Wait! You see the magic that TOM PALMER's inking lends to GENE COLAN's pencil work on this month's CAPTAIN AMERICA! And then, next month, prepare for the most electrifying change-over of all, as WILD BILL EVERETT embellishes Gene's artwork — giving Cap and the fighting Falcon a luster and an excitement such as they've never had before!

ITEM! Just wanna tip our hat in thanks to TITANIC TONY MORTELLARO for the tremendous job he did in pinch-hitting as Production Chief while J. J. VERPOORTEN was on vacation. (No, Irving, J. J. doesn't stand for Jolly Jonah Jameson! It's Jumbo Johnny! Now stand in the corner!) By the way, remember FABULOUS FLO STEINBERG, our gone-but-not-forgotten Gal Friday? Well, ol' J. J. ran into her in Europe, where she too was vacationing, and they both had a blast swapping stories about our mixed-up mags and the madmen who make them tick!

ITEM! Speaking of vacations, who do you think RASCALLY ROY and his lovely Jean bumped into while sojourning in merrie old England? That's right, none other than CONAN THE BARBARIAN, peerless penciller, BASHFUL BARRY SMITH, who's eagerly counting the days till he embarks for the States as a permanent resident, where we're hoping he'll be able to turn out twice as many action-packed pages of CONAN and other thrillers as ever before! And, did we tell you about the pub Roy visited in Piccadilly Circus? It's called the Duke of Argyle, and it's decorated inside and out with — you guessed it — our own Marvel heroes and villains! Even the ceiling has our high-flying SILVER SURFER gazing soulfully down at you, wistfully dreaming, no doubt, of the glory and grandeur that was!

ITEM! One answer to the question of why JIM STERANKO has been absent from our pages recently is the fact that he's been hard at work writing his monumental HISTORY OF THE COMICS. Stan no sooner read the first copy than he grabbed the phone to congratulate the jaunty one on the cataclysmic job he'd done. (And, since Jim lives in Pennsylvania, and we all know how stingy Smiley is, you can imagine how our leader must have liked it!) Anyway, just to complete the age table we mentioned earlier, Jim is presently just on the shady side of thirty — and we've been wondering whether to congratulate him, sympathize with him, or simply adopt him!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Every few months (mainly when I can't think of anything else to write!), I try to spell out the somewhat elusive, ephemeral Marvel philosophy. Well, just the other day, one of the largest magazine publishers in Japan, who has been presenting our own SPIDER-MAN to a wildly enthusiastic Japanese audience, requested a brief resumé of our philosophy for his readers. It occurred to us that you might enjoy reading this updated version. And so —

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan, John, and others,

Well, after leaving the Marvel fold for more than a year, I picked up issue #90 of SPIDER-MAN, and I guess Spidey still is the same fascinating hero of yore. Issue #90 was fantastic!

During my year's reclusion from the fold, which blew my R.F.O. rating, I studied some biology, so when I picked up issue #90, I began to think about Spidey's origin. Now, I don't know if this ever came up before my interest in Spidey began (issue #31), or after I left the fold, but I'm going to try to give reason behind the one-and-only. As every Spidey fan knows, he gained his powers from a bite of a radioactive spider. Now, the bite of a normal spider isn't much, but this radioactive spider was dying, let us say, from the induced lysis of its cells, including the cells of the poison glands. Radioactivity is a mutagenic and would conceivably affect the chromosomes of the cells. The pieces of the spider inside Peter would include pieces of chromosomes, which could be mutated into an infectious form, like a virus. They would replicate at the expense of the cells of his hand, but might be incorporated into Peter's nuclei. This would give him certain characteristics of a spider.

As a science-fiction fan, I wish to commend you on the logic you show in your mags. True sci-fi stories start with only one scientifically logical deviation from a set norm. In the majority of your stories, you do this very commendably. Issue #90, now, is slightly different. The altered webbing is o.k., but what is the logic behind it? Oh well, life does contain its little incongruities.

I was glad to see Doc Ock in issue #90. I've always felt that he was one of your most logical and deadly villains. So you went and killed another of Peter's friends! What can I add to that? You've branded Spidey as a killer and probably incurred the hostility of Gwen towards Peter's other self. I think I will go back to sci-fi; it's less hectic here (only joking).

Request time: If my little bit on Spidey's origin is to your liking, please show your appreciation. A no-prize brought to me via 17-year cicada would be to my liking. Pretty please? Bill Castellani, 14900 Rochelle Detroit, Mich. 48205

You've got it, Bill. But please, no more lines — even joking ones — about going back to the glories of sci-fi fandom and abandoning the comic-mag field. You know how we worry about things like that.

Dear Stan,

Why, oh why, must SPIDER-MAN be burdened with the guilt of the world? His was not the responsibility; he took it upon himself. Years ago, Peter Parker received the curse of curses — a "gift". The gift-curse of being "different" has struck quite a few lonely individuals. Some have buried their special gift within them, pushed their uniqueness inward to die the withering death of the unused, just so that they could fit an average niche in "normal" society.

A rare few have used their gift freely. Some, feeling their difference has set them apart or outside the human race, find uses solely for their own gain. Others are drawn to unselfishly aid their fellows. Peter Parker is one of these lone — oh, so lonely — persons. His endowment was mainly physical, and he used it generously as best he could — as a strong force against the selfish misfits, the criminals. He attempted to ignore the confused hostility of a "normal" citizenry toward his differentiation, but his very generosity confirmed his lack of apathy. He

cared to remain a part of the human race, and he was affected by ordinary people's views of his abnormality. His self-pride had to be contained (since it was not shared by others), and he felt guilty whenever he used his superior abilities.

Spider-Man was in no way responsible for the death of George Stacy. Stacy's death was a fateful accident. Gwen Stacy is a brave, intelligent girl. As her sorrow abates, she must surely rest any apportioned blame on Dr. Octopus' evil use of his invention, not on Spider-Man's attempt to fruitfully use his super-powers.

Do not let Miss Stacy fall prey to the unfeeling, ignorant hostilities of normal people. She is special, too — hers is the gift of love. In the last panel of issue #90, you foreshadowed Peter's feelings of guilt and Gwen's misplaced hatred of Spider-Man. Such guilt and hatred should not logically exist, and if logic is extant in this messed-up world, you will avoid the obvious dual-identity crisis of your super-anti-hero in love, and turn the plot to higher planes of awareness.

S. Alyne Weidler, Hiram College
Hiram, Ohio 44234

Friend, you may know or feel that Spidey wasn't responsible for Captain Stacy's death — and Stan and John may know it — but what will any of us tell the tormented Peter Parker himself? Or what will Pete tell Gwen — if and when he decides to unburden his soul to the girl he loves?

Time, they say, heals all wounds — and perhaps with time, the sorrow of Spider-Man will be eased as well.

Dear Stan, Gil, and John,

I find it getting increasingly difficult to resist writing to you after reading the latest issue of SPIDER-MAN. SPIDER-MAN #90 held in its contents the necessary qualifications to make it an excellent Shakespearean play: (1) The antagonist would naturally be the evil Dr. Octopus; (2) the story started out extremely interesting, so as to prevent the reader from making a paper airplane out of the issue; (3) the story continued on smoothly, preventing boredom until the turning point when Spider-Man decides to do final battle with Dr. Octopus; (4) From this point on, everything reaches a crescendo until the climax when Captain Stacy is killed.

The only variation we see is that this particular story, unlike a play, has two turning points. The second appears in the life of Peter Parker, who is now faced with two major problems: he must live with the guilt he feels for the destruction of his two most trusted friends, Uncle Ben, and Captain Stacy, and he is also now responsible for Gwen, from whom he must keep his secrets.

I ask you—have Shakespearean characters ever been portrayed with as many problems and with such a dismal outlook for the future as our own AMAZING SPIDER-MAN?

Well, do I get a no-prize for my questionable comparison of a typical SPIDER-MAN story to that of a Shakespearean play? Thomas Czaplinski, P.O. Box 31 Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146

Consider it sent, Tom. By the way, that Shakespeare character you mention sounds like a real winner of a scripster. What comic-mag company does he work for? (And if you tell he's employed by our capricious competitors, ol' Stan may just start worrying!)

Dear Stan,

I have only one thing to say to the Marvel Age of Comics, and that is — adios! — unless something is done to rectify the situation you've developed in issue #90 of SPIDER-MAN. Not only have you destroyed one of your most excellent supporting characters (namely — Captain Stacy!), but you've actually revealed an unthinking Spider-Man committing murder, or at least being an accomplice in a killing. Let me reiterate a little. You have made clear certain points such as: 1) Spider-Man will not now or ever reveal his identity to anyone close like Harry or Gwen. 2) He'll try to be compatible with Gwen, for when he is near her, memories will flood his soul and constantly bring his role in the death of her beloved father to mind. 3) To go beyond these two, you have wrapped two guilt complexes around Peter's neck (which is far more than any man — super-hero or not — can take!). Now you've given yourself only a limited amount of possibilities to escape from this treacherous orifice you dug yourself into. You might have a doctor rush to Captain Stacy's aid and save him at the last probable moment, for the majority of us know that the human body can live for at least three minutes after the heart has stopped pumping and the lungs breathing. Or... you can suddenly open up next issue with a splash panel showing Peter snapping out of a dream (any concepts along this line are logically feasible and may save you the loss of a great number of fans who share my opinionated views).

If this conformity does not come about, then for all I care, you can transmute Spider-Man into a paranoid schizophrenic and have him commit suicide (for by that time I will have discontinued all my purchases of your magazines). I know from a statistical standpoint that losing one fan isn't much of a loss, but I'll follow it up, nonetheless.

Art Kangas, Jr., 4214 Woodbine Ave.
Dayton, Ohio 45420

We hope not, Art — because, after all, Captain Stacy wasn't even in existence as a comic-book character when the Marvel Age of Comics began back in 1961 — and we were rather planning on it's outlasting his demise by some time. In fact, if we can believe our fan — and pan — mail, it's just this life-and-death feeling that makes SPIDER-MAN and our other magazines the sought-after works of popular art which they are. Or are we off-base, and have times and comics-fans changed more than we imagine?

Dear Stan, Gil, and John,

SPIDER-MAN #90 was at the very least an issue which brought out much emotion from its readers. You can talk all you want to about how comic characters are just imaginary, non-existent people, whose lives in the comics are make-believe, and thus, nothing to get upset about. But any true fan who has read comics most of his life, as I have, knows that this is not the case.

Captain Stacy made his first appearance about two and a half years ago, in issue #56, I believe. Ironically, he was then on a committee aiding in the capture of Dr. Octopus, the same criminal who has now been responsible for his death. Any major character who's been around for two and a half years cannot be killed without evoking some sadness from the more sentimental fans among us. Even my younger brother, whose only contact with Spider-Man was MARVEL TALES #1, and who's never even heard of Captain Stacy until now, was saddened by reading the last three pages of the story. My compliments to you, Stan, especially for the last page. Stacy's final words to Peter, and his calling Peter by name, were very fitting to the story. My compliments also go to you, Gil, for although Peter's face was hidden by his mask, I could really see the desperation and anguish he felt at the end of the story.

I have only two pleas to make. First, don't have any bitterness between Gwen and Peter that might separate them. She needs him now more than ever. And second, please, PLEASE don't start a story line that would call Spider-Man a murderer. Any half-wit could see it wasn't his fault that Octopus' arms toppled the chimney! God knows there's been enough fear and distrust of Spidey already by Jameson and everyone else to last a lifetime! If you really have killed off a fine man like Captain Stacy, at least have enough respect for him to refrain from using his death as a springboard for the very kind of anti-Spider-Man feelings that he spent the last years of his life fighting! Let the man rest in peace. He deserves at least that much.

Mike McKeegan, 190 Columbia Dr.
Williamsville, N.Y. 14221

And perhaps he shall. But for the present, it would appear that — while Captain Stacy himself is beyond pain, beyond heart-break — the prospects ahead for Spider-Man and Gwen are rather bleak, indeed.

Stan, John, and even "newcomer" Gil Kane shared your feelings over the death of Captain Stacy, incidentally. Seldom in the annals of Marvel was a character written out of a strip with more anguish, more soul-searching on the part of those who wrote and drew the fateful story. Believe us, Mike, nothing about SPIDER-MAN #90 was done light-heartedly or without forethought — and if you happen not to like the way you see things drifting as a result of Stacy's death, all we can do is humbly ask that you keep reading the magazine for a while — and see if our plans for Peter Parker's future finally wind up justifying the direction they have taken.

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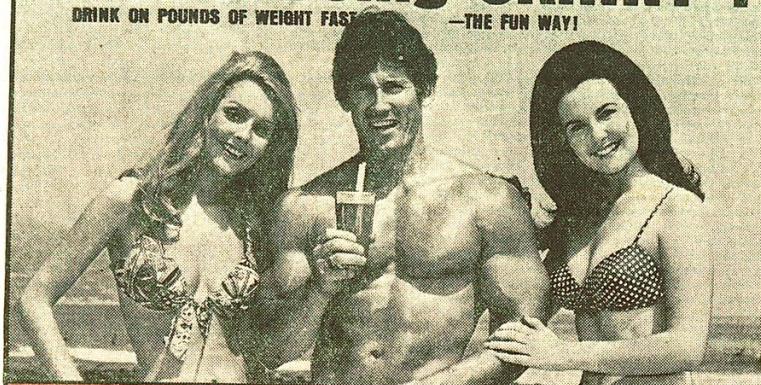
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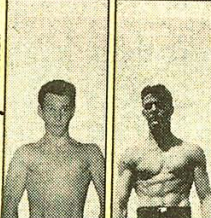
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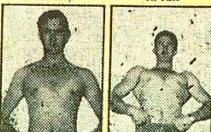
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DISCLAIMER: NO SPICE YOUR ORDER IS. Regulations require and demand to service to be proper... Please read and follow instructions on your #7 or #14 plan.

THE DO-IT-YOURSELF GAIN-A-POUND-A-DAY KIT!

This is a 1-day supply of Crash-Weight, check full of weight-gaining nutrients that can smash the weight gaining barrier!



You want to gain a pound a day? Half a pound a day? Maybe you just want to add a few pounds here and there? You want it easily... enjoyably... without stuffing yourself and counting calories?

NOW YOU CAN

It's simply wild... AND IT WORKS!

You too can follow this amazing Crash-Weight Formula #7 Plan and drink on as much as a pound a day... to help flesh out your bones... fill out your narrow, shallow chest; skinny arms, and spindly legs. Skinny people are undesirable... they look sickly. Say goodbye to your string-bean looks with this sensational new plan—NOW! No more bloating yourself with rich, heavy foods to force-feed calories into your system. No exhausting, complicated exercises... just drink a delicious glass of natural-organic Crash-Weight Formula #7 daily in addition to your regular meals. Follow Crash Weight Plan as directed in the free booklet and you can drink on (in delicious, milkshake tasting form) mixed with usual household food ingredients up to 3500 calories along with your regular calorie intake. Then, take it easy... while you relax, snooze or watch TV... this calorie-packed weight-training drink and the Formula #7 Plan does all the work, piling on weight for you.

● MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ●

Use the no-risk coupon below Satisfaction guaranteed or money back!

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE COUPON!

JOE WEIDER, Dept. 83-21K4
531-32nd St., Union City, N.J. 07087
(Print of the Booklet's Order Form, Please, No. 1027) Extra Money, Cash, 100%

Dear Joe:
I want to join the WEIGHT-GAINABLES. Enclosed find \$..... for your Crash Weight Formula #7 Plan which I have checked below. I understand your Money Back Guarantee applies only if I order my Plan through this coupon!

Check one of the Plans below:
☐ 7-Day Supply of Crash Weight #7 Plan, \$ 7.50
☐ 14-Day Supply of Crash Weight #7 Plan, \$14.98

Check flavor desired: ☐ Chocolate ☐ Vanilla

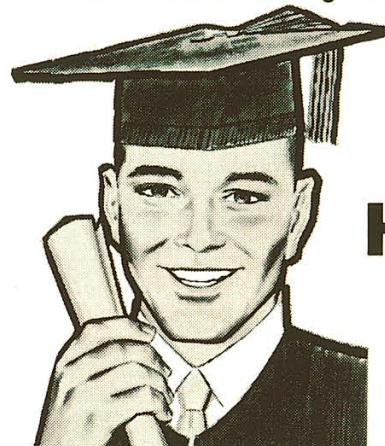
NAME..... AGE.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... STATE..... ZIP.....

Canadian orders filled in Canada—the daily fee pay.

Second chance for high school drop-outs to get a diploma



Now you can Finish High School at home

EARN A DIPLOMA IN YOUR SPARE TIME WITHOUT LOSING A DAY'S PAY

QUALIFY FOR A BETTER JOB HIGHER PAY • GREATER SECURITY

\$94,000 extra income in a lifetime

U.S. Government figures show the average high school graduate earns \$94,000 more than the non-graduate. Here's what the extra money can mean:



Live in a home of your own in a fine neighborhood.

Drive a new car, provide other luxuries for your family.



Watch your savings account grow — enjoy real security.

Here's a convenient, pleasant way for anyone over 17 to finish high school at home — with just a few hours a week of spare-time study. You don't have to go back to school — school comes to you.

This practical program is offered by Academy for Home Study. It was planned especially for working men and women who need a diploma to get ahead and can't take time out to go back to classroom study. It offers these advantages:

- Full Credit for Previous Schooling
- Simplified, Easy-to-Read Lessons
- True-False Multiple-Choice Tests
- Qualified Teachers • Friendly Help

A diploma means a lot today — in prestige and in cash, and in greater job opportunities — increased job security.

Get the Full Story—FREE

Send for Academy's FREE booklet. It tells you how you can finish high school at home. Low cost, easy terms. You will also receive free a valuable Government booklet with advice for drop-outs. You may discover you are much closer to completing high school than you imagined. Mail coupon below today for both booklets. There's no cost or obligation. Academy, 425 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.



ACADEMY FOR HOME STUDY

425 S. Dearborn Street, Dept. 62-903, Chicago, Illinois 60605

Please rush FREE booklet on how to finish high school at home, also free Government booklet. No obligation.

Print Name..... Age.....

Address..... Apt. No.....

City & State..... Zip.....

67M



Do you have art talent worth developing? Take our free test and see

If you have ever wondered whether you had art talent, here is your chance to find out. The founders of Famous Artists School have put together what many artists and educators consider to be the most revealing test of art ability ever devised. It is offered to you free.

Designed for people uncertain of their ability

The people who take this Art Talent Test are of all ages and occupations. Most of them have little or no previous art training. By professional standards, their drawings may be awkward and amateurish. But the ones who possess the gift of art talent reveal it in many ways. Through simple little exercises, they show the inherent sense of design, the feeling for composition, the ability to observe, and the lively imagination which are such important ingredients of art talent.

The reliability of this method of screening, as well as the effectiveness of the training, has been proven again and again by the impressive record of success of our students and graduates.

They passed the test and went on to become successful artists

When Anthony Fotia took the Art Talent Test, he was a mail clerk, "stuck" in a low-pay routine job. Today, he's an artist for a printing firm, doing exciting creative work. Kathleen Gironda went from a salesgirl in a department store to a fashion illustrator in the same store. Virginia Barter, a farmer's wife and mother of three, now sells just about everything she paints. These are just a few of the literally hundreds of "success stories" our students report to us.

So if you love to sketch or dabble in paints

—and have often wondered if you "have what it takes" to become a well-paid commercial artist or sparetime professional painter—why not seize this opportunity to find out? All you need is a pencil and a half-hour of your time. With your special interest, it will be one of the most intriguing and enjoyable half-hours you ever spent.

What the Talent Test covers

First, you will be shown ten pairs of simple designs and asked to pick the one in each pair that has "a feeling of rightness" about it. Then you will see twenty pairs of pictures, and check which composition in each pair is more pleasing. You'll be asked to do original sketches to demonstrate your imagination and powers of observation. And in similar ways, your feeling for mood, form, movement, and so on will be tested.

When you complete the test and mail it back, it will be graded free by a member of the School's staff. If you receive a passing grade (and we must warn you that many don't), or can offer sufficient evidence of art talent, you will then be eligible to enroll. You may choose whichever of our courses is best suited to your goals.

Courses offer personal instruction

These courses were especially designed for talented people who can't leave their families or jobs for art training away from home. The 12 famous artists who started the School over 19 years ago contributed all their lifetime secrets of art technique to what they believe to be the finest art lessons ever created. They took time out from their own busy careers and made thousands of special drawings to demonstrate each point. Then they devised a method of constructive criticism that is as personal as tutoring. Your instructor, who is himself required to be a practicing professional artist, spends up to several hours on just one of your assignments. He actually draws or paints his suggestions for improvement, and then "talks" to you by letter, dictating a long, friendly message of specific advice and encouragement.

You will receive an interesting brochure about our School and its revolutionary methods along with your free Art Talent Test. If you have ever dreamed of success in art, and wondered if it were possible, why not mail the coupon at left for both the Talent Test and the brochure right now?

Famous Artists School Studio A - 6516 Westport, Conn. 06880		Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ ← Please circle one and print name Miss ☐
I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.		Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Age _____
Accredited by the Accrediting Commission National Home Study Council		